

Kaaps



Language: Kaaps
People Group: Kaaps
People Group Size: 3,000,000
Location: South Africa
Lifestyle: Urban
Translation Phase: 1
Translation Time-frame: February 2025 - September 2027
Translation Goals: Oral translation and transcription of Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, and Psalms
Source Languages: English and Afrikaans
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA

IMPACT

One Sunday, Shawn George, the Kaaps project coordinator, was invited to preach at a church. After hearing about the Kaaps Bible translation project, the presiding pastor devoted the remainder of the service to exploring the initiative. The congregation responded with deep engagement, gaining fresh insights into Creation through the Kaaps translation. Many appreciated the clarity and relatability of Scripture in their heart language. The service sparked wide interest, and inspired some to explore their cultural heritage further.



Kaaps is spoken mainly by the Coloured community in the Cape Flats of Cape Town, South Africa. It emerged in the 1500s as a trade language between indigenous peoples, settlers, and passing traders. Long treated as a dialect of Afrikaans, Kaaps likely predates it and has developed its own distinct form, closely shaped by the culture of its speakers. Today's Kaaps speakers descend from diverse groups who lived under European colonisation, including Malays, Khoisan, and other African peoples, many of whom were enslaved and oppressed. Their language and identity have long been stigmatised, yet Kaaps culture remains vibrant, known for its music and expressive speech. As they embrace their identity afresh, the translation of God's Word into Kaaps brings further validation that they are utterly treasured and wonderfully made; a message with the power to heal centuries of discrimination.

Kaaps, South Africa



GET INVOLVED

Pray



Join the prayer mailing list to intercede for the Kaaps community, the translation team, and the programme.

www.wycliffe.org.za/signup-kaaps

Give



Become a partner and invest in God's transformative hope, planting seeds that will impact millions across Southern Africa.

www.wycliffe.org.za/give-now

Adopt



Journey with the Kaaps by building relationships, encouraging, and supporting them in practical ways as they work.

www.wycliffe.org.za/contact/adopt-a-language

Visit



Get to know the Kaaps people by visiting them and taking time to talk, pray, eat, and serve with them.

www.wycliffe.org.za/contact/visit-a-language



www.wycliffe.org.za/kaaps

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